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## HEREFORD MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

THE 135th meeting of the three Choirs of Hereford, Worcester, and Gloucester, was held at Hereford, on Tuesday, the 24th of August, and three following days. Our necessarily-limited space prevents us entering so fully into the details of the performances as we could have desired, and as their merits would have justified; however, we have much pleasure in giving the following brief report, which will enable our readers to gather some ideas with reference to the performances at the present Festival.

The pieces performed in the morning on the first day consisted of Handel's *Dettingen Te Deum*; a Jubilate by Mr. G. Townshend Smith, the Conductor; Mendelssohn's *As the Hart pants*; and an Anthem, "The Lord is the true God" (bass solo and chorus), composed by the Rev. Sir F. G. Ouseley, Bart., Precentor of the Cathedral. The principal parts were sung by Madame Weiss, Mrs. Clare Hepworth, Miss Lascelles, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Montem Smith, and Mr. Weiss. In the evening, a Miscellaneous Concert took place at the Shire Hall, at which, in addition to the *artistes* already named, appeared Madame Clara Novello, Madame Viardot Garcia, Miss Louisa Vinning, and Mr. Sims Reeves. The programme was varied and interesting, comprising in the instrumental parts Mozart's *Jupiter* Symphony and the Overture to *Guillaume Tell* (both admirably played by the band, which was led by Mr. H. Blagrove), and in the other parts an excellent selection from Mozart's *Clemenza de Tito*, together with a choice assortment of Duets and Solos, which were admirably sung. Amongst the latter must be mentioned Verdi's Cavatina, "Ah forse e lui," sung by Miss Vinning; a Duet in Spanish, sung by Mesdames Novello and Viardot, both of which were warmly *encored*; also a charming Ballad by Whittaker, "Oh say not woman's heart is bought," sung with much sweetness by Mr. Montem Smith.

Wednesday morning was devoted entirely to Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, the principal parts being apportioned between the whole of the vocalists engaged for the Festival. The Oratorio was admirably sung, the principal singers and the chorus seeming to vie with each other in the struggle for perfection. Amongst the pieces that were repeated pursuant to signal from the Bishop, may be mentioned the quartett, "Cast thy burthen;" the trio, "Lift thine eyes" (sung by Madame Novello, Mrs. Hepworth, and Madame Viardot Garcia); "O rest in the Lord;" "Then shall the righteous;" and "O come, every one that thirsteth." The quartett, "Holy, holy," deserves special mention, it having been sung in a superior manner by Mesdames Novello, Hepworth, Lane, and Garcia, with chorus. In the evening another Miscellaneous Concert took place at the Shire Hall, which was followed by a Ball. The Concert drew a very fashionable audience, amongst whom we observed the Bishop of London, and many of the *elite* of the counties of Hereford and Gloucester.

On Thursday morning, the performances at the Cathedral comprised a selection from Mendelssohn's *Athaliah*, Rossini's *Stabat Mater* (English version), and the first two parts of the *Creation*. The attendance was much fuller than on the two preceding days. All the music was exceedingly well done. Amongst the pieces repeated at the request of the Bishop, were the trio in *Athaliah*, "Hearts that feel," and the solos in the *Stabat*, "Lord, vouchsafe thy loving kindness," and "I will sing." The War March of the priests, in *Athaliah*, was played magnificently by the band. The bass solos in the *Creation* were divided between Mr. Weiss and Mr. Thomas, who sang with remarkable steadiness and precision. In the evening, another concert took place in the Shire Hall, but which does not call for any special report.

On Friday morning was performed the *Messiah*, for which nearly all the reserved seats had been taken some days previously. Most of the principal singers assisted. In the evening there was a Grand Dress Ball, which brought the Festival to a conclusion.

We cannot close this report without alluding to the fact of the Festival having taken place this year through the

untiring exertions of the conductor, Mr. G. Townshend Smith, who has spared no labor to continue these meetings without interruption; to him is also due great praise for selecting the best *English* talent for these performances, the principal vocalists being (with one exception) all English, and such as were well acquainted with the music to be performed. Madame Novello and Messrs. Reeves and Weiss were quite at home in their parts, and received the highest praise. At the evening concerts, Miss Louisa Vinning gained her laurels,—she was frequently *encored*, and her singing was admired by all. Madame Novello and Madame Garcia were particularly happy in the Spanish duet, "El vestido azul," which gave great satisfaction, and was re-demanded. We must not omit to mention Mrs. Clare Hepworth, who on this occasion produced a good impression, and was warmly *encored* in an old Jacobite song, "I know who," on Wednesday evening; she also sang the parts allotted to her in the morning performances in a very careful and artistic manner. Of all the vocalists who were engaged, we can also speak favorably, they having sung in their best style. Owing to our going to press before we could get particulars of the last day's performance, we are unable to give in the present Number a correct statement of the receipts; but as the attendance was good, there is no doubt this Festival will be very successful.

## Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

ABERDEEN.—The Harmonic Choir had an "open night" for their friends at the Mechanics' Hall on the 27th July. There was a numerous and influential assemblage present, and the Hall was crowded. The programme consisted of a good selection of part-songs, glees, madrigals, &c. The singing was marked by accurate and distinct enunciation; the points were well taken up; and there was a general finish of execution. The accompaniments were judiciously played upon the pianoforte by Miss M. Wilson. Mr. Carnie is the conductor of the Choir.

ASHBOURNE.—A new and very fine-toned organ, constructed by Messrs. Hill, is about to be erected in the Parish Church. It is said to be an excellent instrument.

BRIDGEND.—A morning performance of sacred music took place in the Town Hall on Wednesday, August 18th; and in the evening a miscellaneous concert. The principal vocalists were Mrs. Clare Hepworth, Miss Phelps, Miss Lane, Mr. Hargrave, and Mr. Amos Richards. Conductor, Mr. Amott.

BURY.—On the 19th ult. the members and friends of the Apollo Glee Club held their annual pic-nic party in the grounds of Heaton Park, by the kind permission of the Earl and Countess of Wilton. The glees selected for the occasion were sung with much precision, under the management of Mr. Leeming, the pianist and conductor of the club.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—On the 30th of July, the second of the "Festival Concerts," under the direction of M. Benedict, took place at the Palace, and attracted an immense concourse. The chorus and band, as before, numbered nearly one thousand singers and players. The vocalists were Madame Rudersdorff, Madame Weiss, Miss Louisa Pyne, and Miss Stebbach; Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. W. Cooper, and Mr. Weiss. Miss Arnabella Goddard and Mr. Benedict performed on the pianoforte; and the music throughout was well and effectively executed.—On the 4th ultimo, the Children of the Metropolitan Charity Schools, to the number of 4600, performed various hymns and chorales. The singing and unanimity of the children was extraordinary; the voices sounded clear, fresh, and powerful, and the effect was excellent. Mr. G. Cooper played several voluntaries on the organ in a masterly manner; and the whole was under the direction of Mr. Bates, of St. Paul's Cathedral, who deserved great praise for the ability with which he had trained the Choir.

**DEPTFORD.**—Mr. Charles Redman gave his annual concert and entertainment on the 4th ult., in the hall of the Deptford Institution. The concert included the Amateur Glee Party of the town, numbering about thirty members, who gave universal satisfaction. Mr. Newman, the ventriloquist, and other artists occupied the latter part of the evening.

**DEWSBURY.**—A Concert-room, capable of holding from twelve to fifteen hundred people, is nearly ready for opening in this town. Much praise is due to Messrs. Fawcett, the proprietors, for the spirited manner in which they have forwarded the undertaking. Mr. Burton is to give the first concert in the new room in October next.

**EBLEY.**—An evening concert took place in the British School on Monday, August 16th. The principal vocalists were Miss Phelps, Miss Lane, Mr. Hargrave, and Mr. Amos Richards.

**GREATHAM (Northumberland).**—On Monday evening, August 16th, a concert was given here, by the Vocal Music Class, in connexion with the Northumberland and Durham Association for the promotion of Church Music, under the management of Mr. W. H. Bliss, the director of the Association. The programme consisted of part-songs, glees, and solos. The principal vocalists were the Messrs. Bliss and Berry. The audience appeared highly gratified, and a hope was expressed that this would be the first of a series.

**GREENOCK.**—The Choral Society of this town gave a private concert on the 29th of July, in the Assembly Rooms, to a large number of friends. The Society which was formed for the purpose of practising choral music, sacred and secular, and which has been in existence only sixteen months, numbers about 150 members, who have attained considerable proficiency. Mr. G. T. Poulter, of Ardgowan, accompanied with much taste upon the harmonium.

**Hemel-Hempstead (Bucks.).**—On the 28th of July a very successful concert was given in the new Town Hall by Miss Lizzie Hales (R.A.M.), under the patronage of Sir Astley P. Cooper, Bart., and Mrs. Moore Halsey. The vocalists were Madame L. Haynes, Mr. and Mrs. Paget, and Mr. Wilbye Cooper. Instrumentalists, Mr. E. Case (concertina), and Miss Lizzie Hales (pianoforte). The room was beautifully decorated for the occasion, and was crowded to overflowing.

**NEWCASTLE.**—The new Town Hall lately erected in this town will be opened on the 1st and 2nd of September, when there will be performances by the Sacred Harmonic and Choral Societies. The principal vocalists engaged are Madame Rudersdorff, Misses Witham and Heywood, and Messrs. Wilbye Cooper, Brandon, and Thomas. Organist, Mr. M. Redshaw; Chorus-master, Mr. Penman; Conductor, Mr. Webbe. On Wednesday morning, Mendelssohn's *Eljah* will be performed, with a Miscellaneous Concert in the evening; and for Thursday evening *The Messiah* is announced.

**PESTALOZZIAN CHORAL SOCIETY.**—The ladies and gentlemen of this society, under the direction of Mr. Henry de Laspée, gave an entertainment on Wednesday, 28th July, consisting of selections from the works of the best masters, with a Recitation from Tobin's *Honeymoon*. The audience were highly interested with the amusements of the evening, and much talent was displayed on the occasion.

**SCARBOROUGH.**—Mr. Yahr continues to give his concerts at the Spa, which have proved highly successful. The principal performers have been Misses Watson and Stoker, and Messrs. J. Naylor, Inkersall, Murray, de Yong, and de Salvi.

**SHIPTON-ON-STOWE.**—A new Organ has been erected in the church of this town, which was lately rebuilt. The instrument is from the manufactory of Mr. Thos. Hewins, of Stratford-upon-Avon, and is worthy of the highest commendation. It contains twenty-six speaking pipes; the

case is of Riga oak, carved in a style harmonizing with the screen and choir stalls. The formal opening took place during the past month; the services were full choral, under the direction of the organist, Mr. H. Matthews, who exhibited the fine qualities of the instrument with great effect.

**STROOD, ROCHESTER.**—An interesting gathering of the Strood Church Choir and their friends, to the number of one hundred, took place on the 2nd of August, in the magnificent woods adjoining Cobham Hall, the seat of the Earl of Darnley. After a light repast, a selection of Glees appropriate to the occasion were sung, comprising, amongst others, Mendelssohn's Open-air Music:—"O forest deep and gloomy," "The open air," "On a lake," "Celebration of Spring," and "Autumn Song." The effect of these sung "in the glades of the forest" by a mass of voices without accompaniment, was excellent, and was highly appreciated by a large audience.

**WHITBY.**—On the 13th of August, Miss Maria Wilson, and Messrs. Plowman, Hird, Hudson, Holmes, and Turner, from the Wilberforce Institution for the Blind, York, gave one of their delightful Concerts at St. Hilda's Hall, and were honored by a highly respectable audience.

*Notices of concerts and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence, otherwise they cannot be inserted. It frequently occurs, that letters and papers respecting concerts which have taken place early in the month, do not reach us till the day of publication.*

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